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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6368**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1411

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 8, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Testing of Special Education Students.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Reske

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill allows a student who is a child with a disability to: (1) participate in the ISTEP test; (2) participate in an alternate assessment based on the student's age or instructional level; or (3) opt out of any testing.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary-* School corporations (via case conference committees for students with disabilities) would have additional flexibility in deciding whether students with disabilities could be awarded a high school diploma that is based on passage of either the ISTEP, an appropriate alternate assessment, or to receive a certificate of completion if the student opts out of testing completely but completes the goals established by the student's individual educational program. The impact of this provision on local expenditures is currently indeterminable and would depend on the appropriate alternative assessment chosen by school corporations. Currently, ISTAR is provided to schools by the Department of Education free of charge.

*Background-*

*ISTAR:* The Department of Education currently offers ISTAR as an alternative to ISTEP. ISTAR may be given to students with disabilities at any grade level. (Currently, ISTEP is administered to students

in Grades 3-10.) A student's case conference committee determines if the ISTAR may be used as an alternative assessment in place of ISTEP for students with "a documented significant cognitive disability." Students designated as limited English proficient are allowed to take the ISTAR. However, beginning with the 2006-2007 testing period, the LAS Links Placement Test will replace ISTAR for English proficiency.

*Students with Disabilities:* Approximately 174,000 students with disabilities were enrolled in public schools during the 2004-2005 school year. The following tables depict ISTEP passage percentages from the 2004 GQE and the 2005 Grade 7 Science Test.

**Table A: ISTEP Participation and Passage Rates by Students with Disabilities 2004 & 2005.**

Test	Number of Students Participating	Percent Passing
GQE Math (2004)	With Accommodation: 8,062 Without Accommodation: 1,613	With Accommodation: 21% Without Accommodation: 34%
GQE English (2004)	With Accommodation: 8,069 Without Accommodation: 1,606	With Accommodation: 19% Without Accommodation: 32%
Grade 7 Science (2005)	With Accommodation: 8,801 Without Accommodation: 3,099	With Accommodation: 15% Without Accommodation: 32%

**Table B: ISTEP Passage Percentages (All Grades) by Students with Disabilities- School Year 2004-2005.**

Test	Percent Passing
Math	40.7%
English	31.1%

During school year 2005-2006, about 4,678 students with disabilities graduated with a diploma and 1,198 graduated with a certificate.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education SAS AND ORACLE DATABASES; Paul Ash, Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Learners. Department of Education website: [www.doe.state.in.us](http://www.doe.state.in.us).

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